

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR SHARP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: THE AGRICULTURAL ENERGY SITUATION IN GERMANY
TODAY

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSIONS WITH AGMIN CONTACTS
THEY EXPRESSED GUARDED CONCERN REGARDING THE OIL SHORT-
AGE, INDICATED EMERGENCY ENERGY PLANS WERE BEING DE-
VELOPED BY ALL DEPARTMENTS COORDINATED BY THE MINISTER
OF ECONOMICS, AND EXPRESSED THE STRONG OPINION THAT
AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURE-RELATED INDUSTRIES WOULD RECEIVE
TOO PRIORITY IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT OIL SUPPLIES HAD
TO BE RATIONED. END SUMMARY.

1. TOTAL GERMAN USES OF DIESEL AND HEATING OIL WERE
ESTIMATED AT 50 MILLION METRIC TONS FOR HEATING AND
10 MILLION METRIC TONS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES. OF
THIS TOTAL, 1.3 MILLION METRIC TONS IS USED BY PRIMARY
AGRICULTURE. TO DATE, AGRICULTURE HAS ONLY HAD MINOR
PROBLEMS DUE TO FUEL SHORTAGES. THESE MINOR PROBLEMS
INCLUDE POULTRY PRODUCTION AND HATCHING, CERTAIN DRYING

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PLANTS (ABOUT 100), AND GLASS HOUSE HORTICULTURE PROD-
UCTION. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT MOST OF THESE PROBLEMS

HAVE NOW BEEN OVERCOME.

2. THE OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT THEY HAVE TO OVERCOME SHORTAGES THROUGH VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS SUCH AS REDUCING AND MAKING MORE EFFICIENT USE OF AVAILABLE OIL SUPPLIES AND SUBSTITUTING COAL FOR OIL WHERE POSSIBLE, AND IN-VOLUNTARY PROORAMS SUCH AS RESTRICTING AUTO TRAVEL AND SPEED.

3. THERE IS ANOTHER MAJOR CONCERN IN GERMANY TODAY. IT IS THE HIGH PRICE OF OIL AND OIL PRODUCTS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS WHO DO NOT PAY THE HIGH TAXES ON DIESEL FUEL USED IN FARM MACHINERY. THE PRICE OF OIL AND OIL PRODUCTS SINCE THE FUEL CRISIS HAS DOUBLED TO THESE FARMERS.

4. THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HAVE EVALUATED THE OIL NEEDS BY THE SEVERAL SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY. THIS HAS BEEN DONE BY THE MINISTRIES RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH SECTOR AND COORDINATED BY THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT CERTAIN SECTORS WILL GET PRIORITIES OVER OTHERS IN THE UNLIKELY CASE THAT RATIONING BY SECTOR BECOMES UNAVOIDABLE. AGRICULTURE IS HIGH ON THE PRIORITY LIST.

5. AN INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANT PRIORITY GIVEN TO AGRICULTURE WAS THAT THE CABINET HAS RECENTLY MAOE AVAILABLE DM 15 MILLION TO THE HOT HOUSE HORTICULTURE TO MAINTAIN ITS PRODUCTION AT A COMPETITIVE LEVEL WITH DUTCH ENTERPRISES. THE DUTCH ENTERPRISES OPERATE PRE-DOMINATELY ON NATURAL GAS FROM DUTCH FIELDS. /HIILLENBRAND

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